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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Brandenburg-Briest Airfield

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 March 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In late January 1952, source learned while on official duty that, in early January, the komondatura of Brandenburg-Briest airfield had instructed the Brandenburg branch office of the Special Construction Bureau in Rathenow to insure that the municipal administration of Brandenburg make available up to 400 workers for the disposal of snow at Briest airfield, if this should be required.
2. About 6 p.m. on 1 February, a searchlight in Jagen (forest-subarea) 29 was observed rotating. Two jet planes took off at 6:10 p.m. and landed at 6:25 p.m. Contrary to previous observations, the runway was not lighted during the landings, but red lamps were observed on both ends of the runway. About 8 p.m., more jet planes landed at the field. On the morning of 2 February, the field was occupied by a total of 20 MiG-15s. Some of the planes probably arrived during the preceding night. At 6:30 a.m. on 5 February, 18 jet aircraft were towed by two trucks toward the alert planes on the eastern end of the runway. Five other MiG-15s were in front of the flight control station. The aircraft engines were started at 9:52 a.m. Planes took off at 10 a.m.; plane without auxiliary fuel tanks took off at 10:13 a.m. The engine of plane was started at 10:15 a.m. It was stopped again about 3 minutes later. Then, the plane was trucked to the repair hangar. The engines of planes 873, 033, 827 and 581 were started between 10:20 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The aircraft took off in that order at 10:30 a.m. At 10:40 a.m. another jet fighter was towed to the repair hangar. Plane landed at 10:45 a.m. and planes at 11:15 a.m. Flying continued in the afternoon in very good weather. All the MiG-15s which practiced flying, except for were fitted with large or small auxiliary fuel tanks. Only one-man crews were observed entering and leaving the planes. On 11 February, 23 MiG-15s, including 6 alert planes, were counted on the eastern end of the runway. The same occupation was observed at the field on 13 February. No flying was observed between 6 and 13 February. All the planes, including those of the alert flight, were covered with tarpaulins after 11 February, probably because of snow flurries. *
3. During the night of 20 January, the field was covered with 3 to 4 cm of snow. At 8 a.m., on 21 January, about 50 soldiers were clearing snow from the runway with shovels and brooms. The same clearing work was under way on 28 January and 11 February. Salt was strewn on the runway on 11 February only.

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4. On 7 January, [] for the first time [] All gun emplacements west of the field were not occupied. []
[] Field training and firing was practiced by 80 air force soldiers in the woods east of the field and in the Landesanstalt []

5. From 1950 to the beginning of 1951, Briest airfield was subordinate to the commandant of Brandenburg-Adado airfield. In about the middle of 1951, Colonel Kakuhn (fnu) was made the commandant of Briest airfield. He was relieved by Colonel Tikhonirov (fnu). Supply officer was Major Pinckenstein (fnu). In about November 1951, Tikhonirov was replaced by Colonel Taranov (fnu). ** According to a craftsman who was permitted to enter the field, a fighter pilot school was located there; now officers and many sergeants were continually observed. Some of the sergeants were officers' boots and were commissioned within a short time. ***

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7. Between 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on 14 February, the field was occupied by 25 jet fighters and 2 biplanes. A jet bomber circled over the field up to 11 a.m. Subsequently, the two biplanes made local flights. []

[] Comment. These observations confirm that Brandenburg-Briest airfield is occupied by a fighter regiment.

[] Comment. Colonel Kakuhn and Colonel Tikhonirov were previously reported [] as commandants of Brandenburg-Briest airfield.

[] It is believed that Colonel Taranov is now the commandant of the unit at the field.

[] Comment. The information that a fighter pilot school is allegedly stationed at the field is reported for the first time. The statements [] may lead to the conclusion that Brandenburg-Briest airfield is occupied by a fighter replacement regiment for all fighter units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army. 50X1-HUM

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